

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement drawing sheets amend Figs. 1-2 and 4 by labeling each as "Prior Art."

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application.

Drawings

Figs. 1-2 and 4 have been labeled Prior Art and thus obviate the objection raised in connection therewith. Replacement Figs. 1-2 and 4 are submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 10-11, 14, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kutkut et al. (US 6150795). This rejection is traversed.

FIG. 1 of Kutkut et al. corresponds exactly to the prior art described in the present application (Discussion of the background, [0007]- [0011] and shown in FIG.1.)

More specifically, Kutkut et al. discloses N storage elements (VB1, VB2,...VBN) and N charge transfer modules (#1, #2,...,#N), where each module is attributed to only two series connected storage elements. For instance in the Kutkut et al. reference, module #1 pairs the storage elements VB1 and VB2, and the module #2 pairs the storage elements VB2 and VB3. In Kutkut et al. an Nth Module #N is enclosed, associated with the last storage element VBN of the chain.

The present invention describes and claims an optimal solution, where the charge transfer on each one of the storage element of the serial chain of n storage elements, is distributed over each one of the n-1 other storage elements. This is obtained by a structure using $n(n-1)/2$ identical transfer modules, such that each storage element is in fact paired with each one of the other n-1 elements, through n-1 modules.

In Kutkut et al., VB3 is paired with VB4 by means of module #3, and with VB2 by means of module #2. Therefore, VB3 is not paired with VB1, VB5,...VBN-1, VBN, by any modules.

In Kutkut et al., the structure has always N storage elements and N charge transfer modules.

In the claimed invention, the structure has, by contrast, n storage elements and $n(n-1)N$ charge transfer modules.

n must be at least equal to 3, since we claim a plurality of modules (if $n=2$, it gives 1 module).

For $n=3$, the structure will have $n(n-1)/2=3$ modules.

For $n=4$, the structure will have $n(n-1)/2=6$ modules.

For $n=5$, the structure will have $n(n-1)/2=10$ modules.

See also Fig.3

It is therefore submitted that the claimed subject matter is not disclosed in Kutkut et al. and as a result the anticipation rejection is respectfully traversed.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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